Statement

Number of Telephone Connections provided & status of STD facility in Tribal and Rural areas of Bihar during the last three years.

Year	NO. of Telephones	Status of STD facility provided
1994-95	17977	531 exchanges provided with STD facility out of 639 as on 1.4.95.
1995-96	16173	555 exchanges provided with STD facility out of 654 as on 1.4.96
1996-97	38050	647 exchanges provided with STD facility out of 694 as on 1.4.97.

STD and Fax Facility in Punjab

792. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places connected with STD and Fax facilities in Punjab, District-wise;

(b) whether there is any plan to connect all the places of the State with STD;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The District-wise details are given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Plans have been drawn to provide STD facility at 160 places and 50 more places have been indentified for opening of new telephone exchanges with

STD facility during 1997-98.

The remaining 80 places where telephone exchanges exists, are likely to be provided with STD facility during 1998-99.

The above plans are subject to availability of financial and material resources.

Statement

District-wise Details of Places Connected with S.T.D. and Fax Facility in Punjab

	Name of District	No. of Places Connected with S.T.D.	No. of Places where Bureaufax facility is provided by D.O.T.
1.	AMRITSAR	47	2
2.	BHATINDA	37	2
3.	FEROZEPUR	84	3
4.	GURDASPUR	39	3
5.	FARIDKOT	15	1
6.	FATEHGARH SAHIB	09	—
7.	HOSHIARPUR	49	2
8.	JALANDHAR	43	1

	Name of District	No. of Places Connected S.T.D.	No. of Places where with Bureaufax facility is provided by D.O.T.
9.	KAPURTHALA	09	1
10.	LUDHIANA	84	4
11.	MOGA	24	1
12.	MUKTSAR	34	—
13.	MANSA	13	—
14.	NAWANSHAR	15	1
15.	PATIALA	25	3
16.	ROPAR	22	2
17.	SANGRUR	90	2
18.	CHANDIGARH(UT)	14	5
		653	33

Telephone Facilities in the Rural Areas

793. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed to provide telephone facilities in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa, Rajas-than, Bihar, Assam etc. during the next two years;

(b) by when this target is likely to be achieved; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VAR-MA): (a) to (c) There is no specific target for provision of telephone facilities in rural areas. However, there is specific target for provision of VPTs in rural areas. The details of target to provide VPTs in the rural areas are given in Statement for 1997-98 *(See* below). This target is likely to be completed by the end of financial year i.e. 1997-98 and all out efforts are being made to achieve the target. Target for 1998-99 has not been finalised.

Statement

VPT *Targets for 1997-98*

SI No.	Name of the Circle	Target
1.	Andaman Nicobar	181
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3000
3.	Assam	4000
4.	Bihar	12000
5.	Haryana	508
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2500
7.	Gujarat	0
8.	J&K	1200
9.	Karnataka	3000
10.	Kerala	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5500